

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

William Parham at (410) 786-4669.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), federal agencies must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for each collection of information they conduct or sponsor. The term "collection of information" is defined in 44 U.S.C. 3502(3) and 5 CFR 1320.3(c) and includes agency requests or requirements that members of the public submit reports, keep records, or provide information to a third party. Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the PRA (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)) requires federal agencies to publish a 30-day notice in the **Federal Register** concerning each proposed collection of information, including each proposed extension or reinstatement of an existing collection of information, before submitting the collection to OMB for approval. To comply with this requirement, CMS is publishing this notice that summarizes the following proposed collection(s) of information for public comment:

1. *Type of Information Collection Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection; *Title of Information Collection:* Generic Clearance for Medicaid and CHIP State Plan, Waiver, and Program Submissions; *Use:* State Medicaid and CHIP agencies are responsible for developing submissions to CMS, including state plan amendments and requests for waivers and program demonstrations. States use templates when they are available and submit the forms to review for consistency with statutory and regulatory requirements (or in the case of waivers and demonstrations whether the proposal is likely to promote the objectives of the Medicaid program). If the requirements are met, we approve the states' submissions giving them the authority to implement the flexibilities. For a state to receive Medicaid Title XIX funding, there must be an approved Title XIX state plan.

The development of streamlined submissions forms enhances the collaboration and partnership between states and CMS by documenting our policy for states to use as they are developing program changes. Streamlined forms improve efficiency of administration by creating a common and user-friendly understanding of the information we need to quickly process requests for state plan amendments, waivers, and demonstration, as well as ongoing reporting. This notice replaces the notice that published on February 26, 2021 (86 FR 11779) and was

subsequently withdrawn on March 9 (86 FR 13565). *Form Number:* CMS-10398 (OMB control number: 0938-1148); *Frequency:* Collection-specific, but generally the frequency is yearly, once, and occasionally; *Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Governments; *Number of Respondents:* 56; *Total Responses:* 1,540; *Total Hours:* 154,104 (3-year total). (For policy questions regarding this collection contact Annette Pearson at 410-786-6858.)

Dated: March 15, 2021.

**William N. Parham, III,**

*Director, Paperwork Reduction Staff, Office of Strategic Operations and Regulatory Affairs.*

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**BILLING CODE 4120-01-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Administration for Children and Families

#### Proposed Information Collection Activity; Evaluation of Project Connect (New Collection)

**AGENCY:** Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, HHS.

**ACTION:** Request for Public Comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is proposing a new information collection to assess the implementation of Project Connect, a comprehensive home visitation intervention that provides home-based services and treatment to child welfare-involved, substance-affected families with children and adolescents ages 0 to 17.

**DATES:** *Comments due within 60 days of publication.* In compliance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, ACF is soliciting public comment on the specific aspects of the information collection described above.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the proposed collection of information can be obtained and comments may be forwarded by emailing [OPREinfocollection@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:OPREinfocollection@acf.hhs.gov). Alternatively, copies can also be obtained by writing to the Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation, 330 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20201, Attn: OPRE Reports Clearance Officer. All requests,

emailed or written, should be identified by the title of the information collection.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Description:* The proposed information collection activity will assess the implementation of Project Connect, a comprehensive home visitation intervention that provides home-based services and treatment to child welfare-involved, substance-affected families with children and adolescents ages 0 to 17. The program aims to strengthen, and address the complex needs of, substance-affected families by providing intensive, long-term services that address issues of unhealthy parental substance use and help parents recover while keeping children safe. It focuses on maintaining children safely in their homes (preventing admission to care) or facilitating reunification when children have been placed in out-of-home care.

The implementation study will support a planned effectiveness evaluation that will rely on administrative data to examine the impact of the program on child welfare outcomes. These information collection activities will take place over the course of five site visits to the program and child welfare agency that are participating in the study. Information collection activities include interviews with program and child welfare agency administrators, focus groups with program and child welfare agency staff, interviews and focus groups with participants, interviews with other program stakeholders, and observations of program staff meetings, program delivery, and judicial hearings. Site visits will also include direct observations of staff delivery of the program, program staff meetings, and relevant judicial hearings/activities for program families.

This evaluation is part of a larger project to help ACF build the evidence base in child welfare through rigorous evaluation of programs, practices, and policies. The activities and products from this project will contribute to evidence building in child welfare and help to determine the effectiveness of a substance use program on child welfare outcomes.

*Respondents:* Semi-structured interviews will be completed with agency and program administrators, parents who are participating in the program, parents receiving services as usual, and other program stakeholders. Focus groups will be conducted with agency and program staff and parents who are participating in the program and parents receiving services as usual.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Number of respondents (total over request period)	Number of responses per respondent (total over request period)	Average burden per response (in hours)	Total burden (in hours)	Annual burden (in hours)
Interview Guide for Administrators (Project Connect, Child Welfare Agency, and Child Welfare Central Referral Unit) .....	14	1	1	14	5
Focus Group Guide for Staff (Project Connect and Child Welfare Agency Staff) .....	24	1	1.50	36	12
Interview Guide for Other Stakeholders (Behavioral Health and Judicial Stakeholders) .....	12	1	1	12	4
Interview Guide for Families .....	16	1	1	16	5
Focus Group Guide for Families .....	24	1	1.5	36	12

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 38.*

*Comments:* The Department specifically requests comments on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Consideration will be given to comments and suggestions submitted within 60 days of this publication.

**Authority:** 42 U.S.C. 676.

**Mary B. Jones,**

*ACF/OPRE Certifying Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2021-05774 Filed 3-18-21; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Administration for Children and Families**

**Submission for OMB Review; OCSE Stafford Act Flexibilities Request Form (New Collection)**

**AGENCY:** Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children and Families, HHS.

**ACTION:** Request for public comment.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), seeks approval of a standardized request form to collect information from state and tribal title IV–D child support agencies requesting administrative flexibilities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, (the “Stafford Act”), due to the COVID–19 pandemic.

**DATES:** *Comments due within 30 days of publication.* OMB must make a decision about the collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this document in the **Federal Register**. Therefore, a comment is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days of publication.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to [www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](http://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain). Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Description:* Due to the exceptional impact of the COVID–19 pandemic, state and tribal agencies operating child support programs under title IV–D of the Social Security Act have faced significant operational and other

challenges in providing critical child support services to families. Section 301 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5141, provides that “Any Federal agency charged with the administration of a Federal assistance program may, if so requested by the applicant State [or Indian tribal government] or local authorities, modify or waive, for a major disaster, such administrative conditions for assistance as would otherwise prevent the giving of assistance under such programs if the inability to meet such conditions is a result of the major disaster.” To communicate that child support agencies may request relief under the Stafford Act, on May 28, 2020, OCSE published Dear Colleague Letter 20–04: Flexibilities for State and Tribal Child Support Agencies during COVID–19 Pandemic. OCSE seeks approval of a standardized request form to collect information from state and tribal IV–D agencies requesting Stafford Act administrative flexibilities, due to the COVID–19 pandemic and according to OCSE Dear Colleague Letter 20–04.

*Respondents:* State and tribal agencies administering a child support program under title IV–D of the Social Security Act.

ANNUAL BURDEN ESTIMATES

Instrument	Total number of respondents	Total number of responses per respondent	Average burden hours per response	Total burden hours	Annual burden hours
OCSE Stafford Act Flexibilities Request Form .....	114	3	1	342	114